National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

| Inorganic Chemicals | MCL (mg/L)[2] | Potential Health Effects from Ingestion of Water | Sources of Contaminant in Drinking Water |
|---|---|---|---|
| Antimony | 0.006 | Increase in blood cholesterol; decrease in blood glucose | Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder |
| Arsenic | 0.05 | Skin damage; circulatory system problems; increased risk of cancer | Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from glass & electronics production wastes |
| Beryllium | 0.004 | Intestinal lesions | Metal refineries and coal-burning factories; discharge from electrical industries |
| Cadmium | 0.005 | Kidney damage | Corrosion of galvanized pipes; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from metal refineries; waste batteries and paints |
| Chromium (total) | 0.1 | Over many years could experience allergic dermatitis | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits |
| Copper | 1.3 | Short term exposure: Gastrointestinal distress. Long term exposure: Liver or kidney damage. | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |

| Inorganic Chemicals | MCL (mg/L)[2] | Potential Health Effects from Ingestion of Water | Sources of Contaminant in Drinking Water |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cyanide (as free cyanide) | 0.2 | Nerve damage or thyroid problems | Discharge from steel/metal factories; discharge from plastic and fertilizer factories |
| Fluoride | 4.0 | Bone disease (pain and tenderness of the bones); Children may get mottled teeth. | Water additive which promotes strong teeth; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| Lead | 0.015 | Infants and children: Delays in physical or mental development. Adults: Kidney problems; high blood pressure | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits |
| Mercury (inorganic) | 0.002 | Kidney damage | Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from refineries and factories; runoff from landfills and cropland |
| Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen) | 10 | "Blue baby syndrome" fatal without immediate medical attention. Infant looks blue and has shortness of breath. | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits |

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|---|---|---|---|
| Selenium | 0.05 | Hair or fingernail loss; numbness in fingers or toes; circulatory problems | Discharge from petroleum refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines |
| Thallium | 0.002 | Hair loss; changes in blood; kidney, intestine, or liver problems | Leaching from ore-processing sites; discharge from electronics, glass, and pharmaceutical companies |

Notes

Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are enforceable standards.

**Treatment Technique** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

[2] Units are in milligrams per liter (mg/L) unless otherwise noted. Milligrams per liter are equivalent to parts per million.